TRANSCRIPT—Eddie Jackson

Fairview Community History Project

Interviewee: Eddie Jackson

Interviewer: Tealey Ellis and Judith Robertson

Interview Date: September 13, 2018

Location: Fairview, NC

Duration: 46 minutes, 29 seconds

Tealey Ellis: This is Tealey Ellis and I'm a volunteer with the Fairview, North Carolina Library Oral History Project. This interview information will be placed in the North Carolina Room of Pack Library in downtown Asheville, North Carolina. Today is September 13th, 2018. I am interviewing Eddie Jackson at his home in Fairview, North Carolina. Thank you, Mr. Jackson, for sitting for this interview.

Judith Robertson: This is Judith Robertson recording the oral history of Eddie Jackson at his home, 70 Taylor Road in Fairview, North Carolina, at 1:15 p.m. on September 13th, 2018, for the Fairview Oral History Project for the North Carolina Room at Pack Library in the Buncombe County Library system. The Conditions of Use Form for sound and video recordings has been signed by the interviewee.

TE: Why don't we start with where you were born?

Eddie Jackson: I was born here in Asheville and—.

TE: At a hospital?

EJ: It was Mission Hospital. It later became Mission Hospital but I forget the name of it.

JR: Was it Victoria?

EJ: No. Remember, Sandra? Anyway, it changed into Mission Hospital the year before I was born but the signs didn't get changed until later. The Mission Hospital.

TE: What about your parents? Where were they born, and their names?

EJ: My dad was born in Rutherford County, his name was Frank Jackson and my mother was born in Henderson County and her name was Jenny Sue Norman.

TE: What about your grandparents on each side, if you recall those?

EJ: My dad's father lived down in Rutherford County and I think my grandfather's family, I don't remember, Hendersonville, I guess. I don't know where the great-grandmother—. And then my mother, my grandmother on my mother's side was born in Henderson County.

TE: What type of work did your parents do?

EJ: Dad worked for Southern Bell Telephone Company. My mother was a homemaker.

TE: How long did he work for Southern Bell?

EJ: I don't remember that. He did retire from there. I don't remember the years.

TE: Probably twenty-five or more years. So how did you get to Fairview?

EJ: When I was about four or five, we moved from West Asheville to here. My dad built a house and we lived in Fairview all of our lives since then.

TE: Was this the house that he built?

EJ: No. He helped me build this house, but the house he built was next door. I was here all those years except four years in active-duty Air Force.

TE: Do you know why you decided to stay in Fairview?

EJ: No. I purchased some land and I figured this is as good a place as any, you know. I lived here all my life and so me and my wife both decided to stay.

TE: What are some of your, what you might call your best memories of Fairview? As a child or teenager.

EJ: Well, as I was growing up I was in Boy Scout Troop twenty-seven, the Scoutmaster was Joe Miller. I didn't go very far into that, I almost made first-class scout but I didn't finish that. And one of my memories about being in Fairview was it used to be a two-lane road, seventy-four was a two-lane road, and I used to stand on the side of the road about every fourth or fifth car I would know somebody in it. But now you stand down there and you don't know a soul. And I played Little League Baseball for several years. I went to Fairview Elementary School and then when I went to high school, I went to Reynolds High School. After graduation from Reynolds High School, I worked at Veteran's Administration part time. I was trying to fill the space between June and October when I was going to go in the Air Force. And when that time come, I went in the Air Force and then basically was gone for four years. After I got discharged from the Air Force we decided to come back to Fairview and we towed a car from California to here

and had a nine-month-old daughter in the seat with us. One reason, how we got her to quit crying so much, we gave her beef jerky to suck on.

TE: You mentioned just a moment ago, Boy Scouts. And Judith tells me that's the first mention that anyone has made of Boy Scouts here in Fairview.

EJ: That was the very first troop that I was with. Later on I became a Scout Leader as an adult, in Troop number fifty-four and then they were coming up to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Boy Scouts and different Scout troops applied for that number and the Fairview troop got it, so we switched form troop fifty-four to seventy-five. So I've been involved with three troops here.

TE: Is there a significance to those numbers?

EJ: Seventy-fifth was the seventy-fifth anniversary of Boy Scouting.

TE: Okay, I missed that.

JR: Where did they meet?

EJ: We met different places.

JR: Was it sponsored by some association, like sometimes churches—.

EJ: The church out there on Old Fort Road, I forget the name of it, Nesbitt's Chapel, sponsored us while we met in their fellowship building then one of the Scoutmasters had a garage and he lived up on Graveyard Road and we met there for several years.

TE: You mentioned that your dad had built the house next door. When was that built? Do you know the year?

EJ: Fifty-three or fifty-four. I don't fully remember that.

TE: You talked about after high school and some work you did and then you were away for four years. Is the Air Force, is the military something that you would care to talk about?

EJ: Oh, yeah. I'm probably the type of person that should had made it a career but I didn't. The Air Force job that I had I was a weapons loader. And I loaded weapons onto jet aircraft and prop aircraft. That's what I did for four years. And it was always a safety-conscious job. And I was in Thailand for a year and at that base it was a remote isolated and our jobs were to, as pilots got downed in Laos and other countries, our planes would fly cover for them and try help create a rescue for them, but we loaded all the weapons for that and that's what I did in the Air Force and then I was in the Army National Guard for nine years out in Hendersonville and there, that was a mechanized infantry unit and then I transferred to Charlotte Air National Guard and I got back on the air side, and I worked at base supply there as the warehouse manager and I did that for seventeen years. The man I worked for, for fifteen years is the best man I ever worked for in my life.

TE: Oh, really - what was his name?

EJ: Mr. Keener. He passed away a couple years ago.

TE: What made him the best person you ever worked for?

EJ: Well, he didn't have to tell me ten times to do a job, he told me and I'd do it. I mean he was my boss and I knew it, but we were also good friends. It just the way he carried himself.

TE: That makes a difference, it certainly does. It sounds like he was a very fair individual—.

EJ: He was fair.

TE: —person to work for and to work with.

EJ: Nice person.

TE: I'm curious if any of your Scout training, teachings, ideas, and theories popped into your head when you were in the military.

EJ: I would say that it did help a lot because it is kind of a military orientation but the thing that's very outstanding in my last days of my career was I retired September the ninth, two thousand one, two days before nine-one-one happened. So, every year the Air Guard has a retiree breakfast and a briefing and you go down there and meet your old friends and gather up news that you might've gotten in the last year.

TE: Well, nine-eleven is certainly still fresh in our minds in this country I believe and thank you for your service to our country.

EJ: Thank you. I could tell you where I worked for my full-time job. After I got out of the active Air Force, I worked part-time at a job for two weeks and I just couldn't stand it so I put in my notice for a week and the next day I think that I left, I got in my car and I said, 'Lord, what am I supposed to do? I've got a wife and small kid.' So, when I got home Sandra said that the former Chief of Building Management Service that I worked for on a temporary job had called me, so I called him up and he said, 'Eddie, I hear that you're back in town.' 'Yes sir.' 'Do you need a job?' 'Yes sir.' 'Can you be

here tomorrow?' 'Yes, sir.' So, forty-three years later, still working. So, I had two good careers.

TE: You're a very fortunate man in many ways. Any other work experiences you'd like to share?

EJ: I did have a part-time job for a while down here at Food Lion when it first opened up. Sandra worked there too—.

TE: What year was that?

EJ: I don't remember. When the store first opened up. And I was a stocker and she was a cashier.

TE: Family affair. Those that work together. I know that Sandra has shared a lot of photographs and I think, Sandra, some of those are from your family?

Sandra Jackson: Most are from my family but I haven't gone through ours yet.

TE: I was going to ask if you had any photos of your family.

EJ: Probably not. If I do, they're so scattered, I don't know where they're at.

TE: If they're ever found and you'd like to share them—.

EJ: I tell everybody that you see a lot of our pictures at the post office, just as a joke.

TE: Yes, yes, I hear my grandfather say that a few times, too. Tell us about high school at Reynolds. Were you involved in sports?

EJ: No, I didn't play sports. I wanted to play baseball, but it didn't work out for me. Basically, I was in FFA, and I can't think of what else. Basically, I just went to school and went to the football games.

SJ: You met your lovely wife there.

EJ: I did meet her there. But that was basically, I started out in the college courses but then I dropped down to the business courses and when I went to A.B. Tech later on in my years, that's what I took as a subject, was Business Administration, with option in Industrial Management. So, I did graduate with a B.S. there.

TE: You were a resident of Fairview going to Reynolds High School. Do you recall anyone making any difference between you as a Fairview resident as opposed to someone who was not? Or was there just general acceptance?

EJ: I guess general acceptance, I don't know.

SJ: Far-view hicks.

EJ: Yeah. But I just kind of fitted in the community and where I lived was where I participated in.

TE: And what we're learning in these interviews is that everyone's experiences are different and important as well. Did your family do any farming? Did you have any gardens?

EJ: We had gardens all along. This year I raised the smallest garden I've had in a long time. Usually, I planted one down at my Dad's house. I planted beans and

potatoes down there and the rest of it up here. And then I had these little four by four gardens that I tried to develop those. We wasn't heavy into farming, but some.

TE: Probably for vegetables that you'd eat during the summer. What about canning?

EJ: We've always canned, me and Sandra can every year.

SJ: His mama taught us.

TE: Wonderful, I know where to go if food supplies get short.

EJ: My root cellar is full of it. I had chickens for a while. I had about twenty-five chickens.

TE: Here?

EJ: At the other house. I sold those in the community but I kind of got tired of that because I had a rooster that every time I went in the lot, it would sneak up on me and I'd have to turn around and scare it back. Sandra says, 'Well why don't we get chickens now,' and I said, 'I don't want chickens. I've had my share of chickens.'

TE: Did you sell eggs?

EJ: Oh, yeah. To friends.

TE: As a teenager living in Fairview, what do think were your best experiences, best memories of living in Fairview? Aside from Reynolds High School, but maybe experiences just in Fairview.

EJ: I don't know. I had a summertime job at Myers Greenhouse up on Flat Top Mountain. They raised carnations. I had a part-time job there. And I had a part-time job at a store on Tunnel Road called Mason's Department Store. And basically, I just hung out with my friends and then I did small jobs to make a little money to keep my car running, buy the parts.

TE: How do you think Fairview has changed, if you remember back to either teenage years or early adult years as compared to now.

EJ: I remember a two-lane road it's much easier, less traffic. Now there's a lot more traffic and I don't know, I know it's changing from a farm community to a blue collar professional community and more houses, more cars, and all that stuff which I liked it better when it was more rural.

TE: Yeah, more rural and more quaint. What about safety during that same time period? Did you feel safe in Fairview?

EJ: Oh yeah, I've always felt safe here.

TE: Do you now?

EJ: Oh, yeah. We don't have a lot of trouble. Occasionally we'd have some but the biggest problem I ever had was somebody stealing gas once or twice.

TE: From your car? Yeah, I was going to ask you about crime.

EJ: Yeah. Most of the people had lived here most of their lives and they respected their community, you know.

TE: Sounds like there was a strong sense of community at that time. How much of that do you think still exists in Fairview, the sense of community?

EJ: Well there's still a lot of people raised here but people moving in want to bring their values, and stuff like that, but I still preferred the latter days.

TE: I understand. What about church? Were there social activities for young people at your church?

EJ: Yeah. When we first moved here, we went to Fairview Baptist Church and then after me and Sandra got married we switched to Emma's Grove Baptist Church and so I've always had activities there, at both places. One of the activities that's non-church but it's just a community thing, I had a group of friends that we just kind of hung out together and we'd go down to Chestnut Hill swimming pool. Do you know where that's at?

TE: No, sire I don't.

EJ: Gerton. It used to be right across from the community building there's a swimming pool there. It was cold, it came right off the mountain but it was always clean.

TE: That'd be fun. That'd be different. What about, in growing up in Fairview, what about stories or legends that might have been going around, either funny ones or scary ones?

SJ: Tell them what Jim Kirstein did to you.

EJ: Our preacher, at Fairview Baptist Church , was Jim Kirstein and this was when I was living in my mom and dad's house, and they didn't have porch on the back of

their house. There was a ladder there, just temporarily, and he climbed that ladder and had a Halloween mask on and pecked on the window. And so, we've always had humor, you know what I'm saying? That was one I remember.

TE: And that was your preacher?

EJ: Yeah. I do remember one thing, during the years that I was in the Guard, they had Pastor Appreciation Day, and I took two pastors and two music directors each time and took them down to Charlotte and they got to have a ride on a C-130. We flew up and around, turned around the Biltmore House and went back to Charlotte. I did that so they would understand what I did when I wasn't in church. And later on in years, they had Spouse Day one year and Sandra got to fly on a C-130 and we flew over our house and I told the pilot that we were flying over our house right then, so for some reason he let me and her sit up in the very top cockpit and we took a picture from there of our house and so when we got through with that flight he gave me the topographical map that they had that covers four states. I don't know how I got chosen to do it, but I felt honored.

TE: Absolutely, and it was so incredibly nice of you to take church members and your wife as well.

EJ: One guy, named Julian Lanning was a song leader, and he was an aviator in World War II, and he got on board and the people, the air crew took him back there and they showed him everything. As he was coming home, he says, 'I got to go back.' I said, 'What do you mean you got to go back?' He said, 'I didn't get enough.' So here he is, this old vet—.

SJ: And you're going to be interviewing his daughter, or somebody is.

TE: Who is that?

SJ: Julian Lanning's daughter?

TE: I think she's on someone else's list.

EJ: Anyway, everybody I took thoroughly enjoyed it.

TE: I know they did and what a lifetime memory you helped to make for them.

EJ: And I always told the people that I wanted to fly with them, I always had the opportunity to fly with them. I did it so they would know what I did.

TE: Still talking about the neighborhood and Fairview, was there anyone that you would consider what we might refer to today as a character? The preacher was kind of a character, I think, climbing up on the ladder and trying to scare people, but just someone who maybe did unusual things or—.

EJ: No, I can't think of anybody. Most of the people I dealt with were pretty straight forward. Every once in a while you get a joke, but most of the times we were just good friends.

TE: That's great. What about the ethnic background makeup during your early teenage years or adult years in Fairview? Were there any other ethnic groups?

EJ: There was small groups, but most of the people just kind of like me, didn't really have a lot of ethnic—maybe scattered but not much.

TE: Do you think that has changed much in recent years?

EJ: It probably has. With all the people moving in I'm sure it has. That would never bother me anyway.

TE: What about stores that you might have gone to as a younger person, a teen maybe?

EJ: Well, right down the road, right across from Fairview School was that rock two-story building that used to be a little grocery store and I'd stop in there all the time, buy my gas and get me a moon pie and a drink there and I enjoyed those folks. Then there was Fairview Supply, another little grocery store, and you knew the people there and they knew you.

TE: At the elementary school, when you said you would go to that rock store, and I know the building you mean, were you allowed to go there like during recess or lunchtime?

EJ: No, this was after school. But one thing I forgot to tell you, in the bottom of that store, was where the Fairview Fire Department got its start.

TE: Really. I don't know that we've heard that.

EJ: That's where they stored their trucks and stuff, underneath that store.

TE: That's a great addition to the history that we're collecting. I appreciate that. You mentioned automobiles, I want to jump back for just a minute, how old were you when you had your first car?

EJ: Probably sixteen. I bought a 1964 Ford Falcon that had seen a lot of hard use and that's where I learned to mechanic a car. My dad helped me rebuild the engine. I

put new brakes, new shocks. Basically, it was a standard shift in the column and I had to change that because it would hang up the two gears and I'd have to jack it up, turn the wheel, then it would come undone, but I put a floor shift in that and never had any more problems. That was my first car and I painted a little black scoop on the front of it, to look like it had an air intake. That's where I learned to mechanic a car.

TE: You knew how to keep it running then, didn't you? What kind of places would you and your buddies have gone to, hanging out and you wanted a bite to eat?

EJ: Back then it was basically McDonald's.

JR: McDonald's? Did you have a McDonald's then?

EJ: Yeah. They had one on Tunnel Road and Patton Avenue.

TE: Anything in Fairview that you would've—.

EJ: No, at that time there was hardly anything restaurant-wise. We'd either have to go to Tunnel Road—.

SJ: Miss Grant. Angelo's. That was more a grill.

EJ: Mr. and Mrs. Grant had a basically a little hotdog and hamburger grill. You'd go in to order but you didn't eat there. We'd go to Tunnel Road. There were a lot of places, Buck's and different places up Tunnel Road.

TE: Do you remember again as a teen or a younger adult man, any fires, floods, devastating events of any kind?

EJ: No, not right off I don't.

TE: What about any older stories from older generations, maybe like your dad, your grandparents, your grandfather sharing stories with you?

EJ: Well, when I was growing up in Fairview, several people had Jeeps and we'd go to this mountain cabin up on Flat Top and they always told so many lies that I couldn't ever repeat them. You know what I'm saying? But that was probably the most that I had in that area.

SJ: Grandpa never told you any stories?

EJ: Well, my grandpa worked for Coca-Cola Company as a sign painter and the only story I remember is that he was painting a sign on Lexington Avenue and some drunk came by and kicked his ladder. Wanted to talk to him. You know how that goes. It didn't knock the ladder over, it just kind of jarred him.

TE: I thought perhaps with the other person, it might have not ended well.

EJ: I don't know that part.

TE: You mentioned, and I think Sandra, you did too, about being in Viet Nam. Are there any memories of local responses to Viet Nam that you were aware of, that you want to share? What was the general mood maybe of people thinking about Viet Nam?

EJ: Well, I'm not sure about that. I know when I went to the Induction Center in Charlotte, we went in a bus under armed escort into the facility because there was some rioting going on then. But, I never had anybody bother me as far as that goes, on that end. I knew a lot of people didn't like it but you know, a lot of those people wasn't very responsible in my opinion.

TE: Thank you for sharing that.

EJ: I'll tell you one thing about the base. I was in Thailand, it was a remote isolated, and I just learned this recently, I read a book about a pilot that they had and I loaded his airplanes many times with weapons and his airplane's name was "Sock it To 'Em." He wrote a book and I read it and I learned that the squadron patch was designed by Walt Disney. I just learned that recently. So, I have a lot of memories on my military side but that would take too long.

TE: Let me ask you this one more about military. By any chance, when you were in Viet Nam or other places you might have been serving, did you ever run into anybody from North Carolina?

EJ: I did. I ran across some guy, I don't even know his name now, I was in Thailand and I don't know what he was even doing there, I saw him and it was kind of unusual and when I was stationed in California in Victorville, George Air Force Base. Me and Sandra was down in San Bernardino, and I saw this car go by, a car from North Carolina, and so I went over and talked to him and it turned out to be Sandra's father's boss's son.

TE: What a small world.

EJ: I've met people at different places that I would never have expected to run into.

TE: That's always nice when that happens. Is there anything, any topic, any area, anything on your list that we haven't touched on that you want to share with us? We'd love to hear it.

EJ: I got a saying that I copied off of Tom Brokaw. It says, 'I have come to realize that there are still so many stories to be told, so many lessons to be learned.'

TE: I agree. That was good. Thank you for sharing. I don't think I'd ever heard that quote before.

EJ: And I know that Sandra and I were in a disaster relief team one year, we went down to Rocky Mount, back in eighty-nine or something, when all those hurricanes come through devastating, and we worked there for three days. I forget how many thousands of meals we helped to do, but that was quite an experience there, to feed that many people. And my job was, I worked with another guy and we had like eight Red Cross trucks that would take meals out and our job was to resupply with tea, water, juice, and they went out twice a day, there was like ten trucks. So, that was our job. I can tell you a couple things that I like to do now. I like to surf fish, or pier fish and we all like to hike. I like to do rock hunting and there for a while I was in a jewelry class, it was continuing education but the guy that was the leader was a retiree from the Army Corps of Engineers and he always kind of took care of me, the guy that we go to the beach with, and he told us, he said, 'Now if you want free coffee, bring us a pound of coffee and we'll have coffee the whole semester while we're doing jewelry classes, so the next week I bought a pound of coffee, he smiled and we got free coffee. It's one of those things, you know, kind of a bonding thing. One of my sayings that I've always lived up to, or tried to, was to try to create a friend as I go.

TE: I like that.

SJ: Get him to tell you how he asked me for our first date. You remember that?

JR: That's what I was trying to prompt – tell us about your wife.

EJ: Well, the first date, I took her to a baseball game at Reynolds High School and so when I come back to drop her off, her mother or somebody came out and told me to go on home. I couldn't figure out what I'd done, but as it was, her mother had just passed away in the living room.

SJ: Tell them about the prom. He told me he was going to come get me on a tractor.

EJ: I remember that, but on that end, I think when I was leaving her house after the prom, I had a flat tire and here I had—I went down the road, I didn't change it there in her yard, I went down the road in my tux and changed my flat tire on my Ford Falcon.

JR: You didn't want to be less than perfect.

TE: What color was your gown for the prom?

SJ: That one was an icky shade of orange. Why on earth we picked that out I don't know.

TE: Do you remember what kind of corsage you gave her?

EJ: No, I don't remember that. I know we got married at Gashes Creek Baptist Church and right before the wedding started, you know you're having a conference with the preacher and he said,

SJ: Preacher Creighton

EJ: 'Now if you have intentions to leave or run, you better do it now.' But we got married in June of sixty-nine so coming up next year will be our fiftieth.

SJ: And it was the hottest day in a ten or fifteen year span and no air conditioning at Gashes Creek. And he went to kiss me, you know, he had his blues on, I went 'Yuck.' He was drenched.

EJ: I remember that now, somebody had wrote on our car, they said, 'It'll be a hot time in town tonight.' It was hot. When we got married, we spent one night in Biltmore, and we come to say good-bye to our mom and dads, we didn't see them again for two and a half years.

TE: Oh, wow. Where did you go then?

EJ: To George Air Force Base in California.

TE: What did you think about California after living in Fairview and growing up here?

EJ: The first day that we arrived in Victorville, California, it was kind of dusk, the sun was going down, there's tumbleweeds blowing down the street, and we got this motel that had kind of a nice Spanish arch, we thought it going to be kind of nice but the further I went back in there, the worse it got, and I carried my shotgun in there.

TE: Oh my goodness. And you felt a little safer then, I'm sure.

EJ: That's the only night we stayed there. But, I don't know, getting back to the Fairview side, we had thought about homesteading land up in Nova Scotia, right?

SJ: No, British Columbia.

TE: It's beautiful up there.

EJ: British Columbia. We decided since our families back home hadn't seen our little girl, Jennifer, we'd come on home and we never did leave.

TE: Got here and couldn't leave. It's a beautiful place and I'm glad I found it, too. Do have other things on your list?

EJ: I don't think so.

SJ: We should mention the kids. We've got two.

EJ: Okay. I've got two kids—Jennifer, and she lives out in Weaverville and she's got one son and she's married to a nice guy.

SJ: And his family's been here forever too.

EJ: And so every Christmas, sometimes we get together and have special meals. I've still got to fix—one of the things I like to do also, is I like to cook, so some of my specialties, I've got four recipes to my name that I've made—.

TE: What are they?

EJ: One is chili, one is a zucchini squash and vegetables, I forget the exact, and then I have a couple of other soups that I make. I tried to make biscuits one time and I didn't use any milk, but I used lard and so when they got into the oven, they were real nice and when we got them out and it made a big glob and I went outside and just slung them, you know, outside. But I can make good cornbread. So, I don't know how I wound up—I always used to watch Justin Wilson on the TV show. He was probably the one that

inspired me, but I do enjoy cooking and usually when I get the recipe I throw it away and I create my own.

SJ: Mention James so a hundred years from now you got your son in there.

EJ: Anyway, Jennifer has a son and he's eleven and my son James, he is married and has one son and he's a firefighter in Asheville. I tried when I was in the guard, to get James to come join the guard. I said, 'Now you could join the fire department on base and get flight life experience, get aircraft experience, and he said, 'No.' I said, 'Well, tell me one time why you wouldn't want to join the North Carolina National Guard, and I'll never ask you again in my life.' He said, 'Well Dad, one reason is they wear a uniform every day.' So, at the Asheville Fire Department what do you do every day? But I never asked him again because I know it's not for everybody, it's just like Fire Department wouldn't be for me. Whatever is your calling, that's where you go.

SJ: See our son is a Fireman in Asheville Station One. My great uncle was there, my uncle was there, and my great-grandaddy was a policeman in Asheville.

TE: Carrying on the family tradition there. You're a wise father, I'd like to say

EJ: Hers and my name is Nana and Papa, that's what our grandkids know us as.

TE: Sandra, is there something you would like to add to this?

SJ: We got the best grandkids, if they ever listen to this someday. I'll tell you one thing, the little eight-year-old, when he was five, I babysat him and he told me that I

would be able to babysit his kids. I'm like, 'You know, I'll probably be ninety years old then. You just bring them to see me.'

EJ: I'll tell you one more thing, though. In my scout troop, the leader was an amateur radio operator, and so one of the other scoutmasters did, and I decided to get my license because when we were out with the troop, we could use our radios to make sure we were in contact. So, I took the course, tried to learn Morse Code, and you have to do five words a minute, for the first license. I copied down as much as I could, and then the last two and a half minutes, I couldn't copy nothing down. But I had enough to get my five words a minute. After I got the five words in I saw that I couldn't understand a bit because all those dits and dots ran together and later on in years, Jim and Louise—well, Sandra and Louise both got their licenses—.

SJ: Because he and Jim harassed us. We didn't have to do Morse Code.

EJ: They got more of a beginner's license. I still can't do Morse Code.

JR: Do they still use it anymore?

EJ: Oh yeah. One of the things that was on the Disaster Team, they had amateur radio operators that were there and I took my radio with me but I never did get to use it because we were too busy doing something else.

SJ: And me doing this post crossing, a guy in Finland the other night, put his signs and call-signs down, I gave it to Jim, because Jim does do the Morse Code and all that. And Jim's been talking to this guy in Finland on Ham Radio and I've got him on the Post Crossing. It's cool.

TE: That's really neat. Is there anything else that either of you would like to share?

EJ: That's all I can think of.

TE: Thank you so much, Mr. Jackson, for inviting us into your home today.

EJ: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcribed by Alice Helms

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